

Message Text

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16

ACTION NEA-12

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FM AMEMBASSY SANA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3510

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

CONFIDENTIAL SANA 605

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, YE

SUBJ: KHAWLAN TRIBE SUBMITS

REF: SANA 587

FROM NEWTON

1. SANA MARCH 30 WAS QTE INVADED UNQTE BY FIVE THOUSAND ARMED TRIBESMEN OF KHAWLAN AL-TIYAL (BETWEEN SANA AND MA'RIB TO EAST) COME TO PLEDGE LOYALTY TO YARG AND TO OBTAIN SHARE OF FOREIGN DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE. THEY WERE MET AT ENTRANCE OF CITY BY LEADING TRIBAL SHAIKHS IN YARG (AHMAR, ABU LUHUM, MATARI) AND ACTING GOVERNOR AND MOVED MARCHING AND SINGING TO REPUBLIC PALACE COURT-YARD WHERE THEY WERE RECEIVED BY PRESIDENT IRYANI, REPUBLICAN COUNCIL MEMBERS AND ARMY COMMANDERS.

2. IN EXCHANGE OF SPEECHES KHAWLAN LEADERS PLEDGED LOYALTY TO IRYANI PERSONALLY, TO HIS GOVERNMENT AND TO REPUBLIC. ALTHOUGH HAVING FOUGHT FOR REVOLUTION, (TRUE AT BEST ONLY FOR A PART) THEY SAID KHAWLAN HAD BEEN KEPT APART FROM IT BY QTE INTRIGUES AND UNFORTUNATE CIRCUMSTANCES UNQTE AND THUS DEPRIVED OF ANY DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE. PRESIDENT, IN RESPONSE, WEL-
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COMED THEM AND PROMISED ALL POSSIBLE DEVELOPMENT HELP,

IN WHICH TRIBESMEN THEMSELVES MUST PARTICIPATE. IRYANI
NOTED POINTEDLY THAT IT QTE BETTER TO EARN LIVING
BEHIND A PLOW THAN BEHIND A RIFLE UNQTE. PRESIDENT
ALSO MENTIONED PARENTHETICALLY THAT HE EXPECTS SOON A
SIMILAR DELEGATION OF SUBMISSION FROM TRIBES OF JAWF,
AREA IN NE OF COUNTRY SOUTH OF SAUDI MAJRAH PROVINCE.

3. NEGOTIATIONS FOR RECONCILIATION WITH KHAWLAN
AL-TIYAL HAVE BEEN GOING ON FOR MANY MONTHS.
SUCCESS OF THIS POLICY OPENS A FERTILE HEAVILY POPULATED
AREA TO GOVERNMENT CONTROL AND OPENS RELATIVELY SECURE
LAND ROUTE TO RECENTLY PACIFIED MA'RIB AREA. IT IS MOST
DRAMATIC EXAMPLE TO DATE OF POLITICAL INFLUENCE YARG
CAN GAIN OVER HINTERLAND THROUGH ITS ACCESS TO SIZEABLE
AMOUNTS OF FOREIGN AID. IT IS ALSO, WE BELIEVE, SIGN
OF MORE ENLIGHTENED SAG POLICY IN RESISTING TEMPTATION
TO USE ITS DIRECT SUBSIDIES TO SHAIKHS OF EAST AND
NORTHEAST TO MAINTAIN SATRAPIES INDEPENDENT OF YARG
CONTROL.

4. ABOVE DOES NOT SIGNIFY YARG CONTROL VERY FIRM.
SUBMISSION IS VOLUNTARY AND BASED ON ECONOMIC SELF-
INTEREST. IT DOES NOT SUGGEST TRIBE WILL FOLLOW ALL
YARG POLICIES. STRONG LOCAL RUMOR IS THAT KHAWLAN
SHAIKHS TOLD PRESIDENT THEY STILL RESERVE RIGHT TO
REVENGE DEATH OF PARAMOUNT SHAIKH NAJI BIN ALI AL-GHADIR
WHO WAS LURED TO PDRY IN 1972 AND KILLED IN GANGLAND-
STYLE MASSACRE WITH SCORES OF FOLLOWERS.

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